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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDER SECRETARY
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April 3, 1956

Memorandum for: Mr. Elmer Staats,
Executive Officer, OCB

From: Arthur L. Richards

Subject: Full Implementation of NSC Action 1386b and Increased Radio
Transmitting Facilities

At the Board Assistants' meeting on March 30, 1956, under Agenda Item 1, the following was recorded in the Minutes:

"Requested the OCB Committee on Broadcasting and Television to prepare a short report for the Board not later than six months hence, in addition to any necessary special reports on individual problems which they may desire."

The continuance of Soviet radio activities in the Balkan and Middle East areas suggests the need for full employment of United States facilities in accordance with previous NSC decisions.

At the Foreign Ministers' Conference, held in Geneva last October, the Soviets rejected any arrangement which would lead to the freer interchange of ideas and strongly defended their right to jam. It appears therefore that there will be no let-up in the "war of ideas".

It is evident from the attached study, TAB A, that the effectiveness of United States broadcasting directed to the Balkans, Southwestern and Central Russia, Asia and the Far and Middle East is insufficient in power to cope with the redefined Soviet objective.

It is understood that the President and the Under Secretary at a meeting of the National Security Council held on February 3, 1955, agreed that four existing warehoused high-power transmitters should be utilized in combatting communist propaganda. The Council, responsive to the desire of the President, by action 1386-b (April 1955) concurred in principle with the activation of additional high-powered transmitters.

The Operations Coordinating Board, in a progress report to the National Security Council dated February 7, 1956, indicated that the only action taken to date in response to the Council's action is planning for the installation of one of these transmitters in the vicinity of Tangier.

It is accordingly requested that the OCB working Group be called upon to study the desirability, as a matter of urgency, of a) the full implementation of NSC Action 1386b and b) the early installation of existing high-powered short and medium wave broadcasting transmitters in the Greek area.

(Attachment not available for distribution)

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